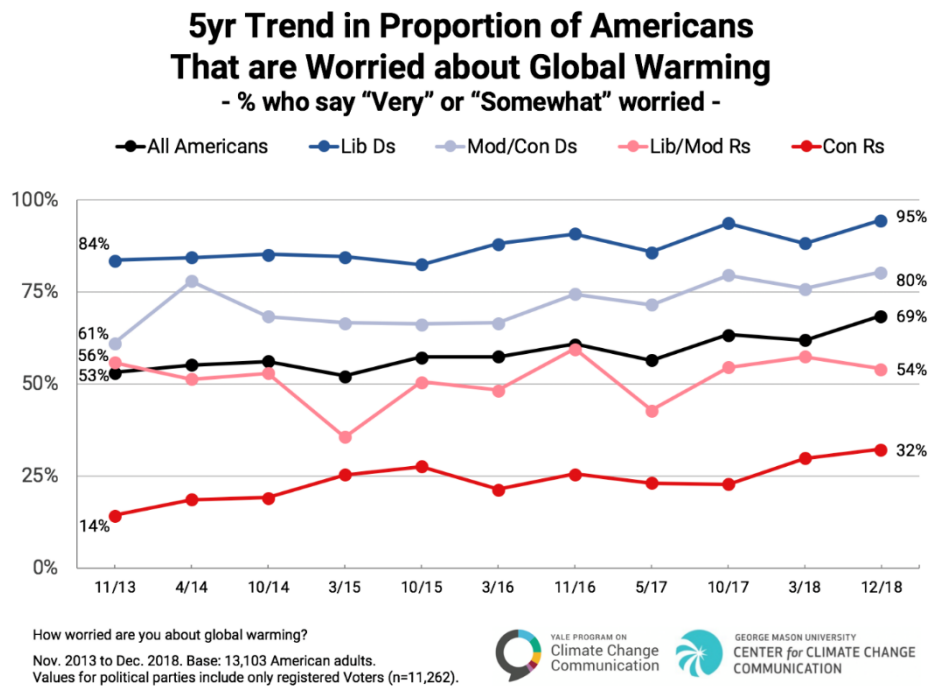


Co-chairs Dembrow and Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

My name is Connie Peterson. I am an Oregon native and current resident of Bend. In offering testimony in support of HB2020, I am not a partisan outlier, but among the majority of Americans who are concerned about climate change. See graph below (69% of all Americans regardless of political affiliation share my worry).



Concern is warranted. Unless you chose willful ignorance, you are aware of scientific consensus and the dire predictions coming from the International Panel on Climate Change and the Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community. Although these contend a bleak future, focusing only on the problem leaves too many of us mired in fear or despair.

Rather than regale you with facts about the impacts of climate change to our State (which many have already articulated), I want to speak to the importance of hope--of having courage and even excitement about embracing change, specifically a strong cap and invest program. The possibilities outweigh perceived costs. Opportunities far exceed any perceived sacrifice. Please do not succumb to the cynical and inaccurate fear tactics being promulgated by corporate polluters. Enact, even strengthen HB2020. In doing so you can set Oregon on an achievable path to help stabilize our climate, reap the economic rewards of investing in communities across our State, and turn despair to optimism.

In requiring only the largest polluters in our state to buy allowances or invest in legitimate offsets, we could do so many amazing things! Examples: upgrade local farm irrigation systems though piping open canals, installing small hydro systems in those pipes to lower energy costs for our farmers, invest in carbon sequestration and sustainably manage forests to mitigate wildfires, use proceeds to fund energy efficiency projects and weatherization, make infrastructure more resilient to extreme weather events,

support community solar implementation etc. Projects like these will create good paying jobs in Oregon that cannot be outsourced.

Many small businesses are already a part of, and could reap even more benefits from, increased investment in a clean energy economy: Family owned construction companies, machine shops, engineering and architectural firms, solar installers, hardware suppliers, heating and cooling contractors, biofuel refiners, and more! The Just Transition fund prescribed in HB2020 could train even more people to benefit by employment in similar occupations.

I am also a recently retired social worker, and have spent a significant portion of my life working with and on behalf of disadvantaged persons. I find it outrageous that the opposition preys on the fears of these communities. Protections, subsidies, and investments to benefit low income communities and those most impacted by climate change are important elements of the legislation I am asking you to support and strengthen.

Although it is true that Oregon cannot alone solve the problem of climate change, Oregon does put out more climate pollution than 116 nations signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement and this is our time to lead. Take that bold action. Be excited! In HB2020, we have an opportunity to help stabilize our climate, make our state stronger, healthier, and more prosperous. This is not the time for thumb dwindling, waiting for others to go first, or kicking the can down the road.

Thank you,

Connie Peterson  
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